

a high degree of objections due to the access being through an existing estate, and that all traffic would have to filter onto an already congested St Helens Road. Cllr Grundy and LENDF will try to discuss possible solutions to this. Meeting will take place on Monday 20th October at Wigan Town Hall.

3. Lane Head – Development of 7 houses

An application is due to be submitted for 7 three-storey properties on the land shown below, with access created to Wensley Road. The top storey will not have windows but will have skylights installed instead. The developer is a local person and fully understands residents' concerns and has increased the maximum distance between existing and proposed houses. He has also embraced the idea of maintaining and enhancing the landscaping to include the existing Tree Preservation Orders already in place. The developer will also specify that Section 106 monies is to go to the Lowton community i.e. scout hut.



4. Sandy Lane/Bodden Street/Brook Street

This parcel of land is in the ownership of George Moss and family (Moss Industrial Estate) and has in the past been used by the community i.e. football field/fairground site.



Last week tree felling activity was reported to the Council and they immediately put a stop to it. This parcel of land is designated as Greenbelt and can not be developed. Cllr Grundy had a meeting with the Moss family who were under the impression that it could be developed and did not realise its Greenbelt status. They are looking to find a source of funding to expand the industrial estate and wanted to use the land for houses. They may

investigate if an application can be submitted with 'exceptional circumstances' as its reasoning.

Post Meeting Note: Seddon Homes have now distributed a leaflet regarding the possible development. To view the leaflet please [click here](#)

5. Nook Lane, Golborne

An application for 50 houses has been granted. The developer is Persimmon Homes.

6. St Catherine's Church

An application to demolish the church and buildings has been submitted to the Council. This will commence probably after Christmas. The land is classed as building land and as yet it is unclear what the Diocese has planned.

Cllr Gilligan is currently in talks with the Diocese regarding a proposal for a Community Hall on the site. She and Andy Burnham are backing the idea.

A resident wrote to the Diocese to enquire about the content of the Church and what would happen to them. Fr Sean Kirwin (Episcopal Vicar for Finance and Development) replied...
"It is always very sad when any of our places of worship are closed, as you describe in your email. The personal connections and efforts in the past built up the buildings and the faith and community of the people of those areas. Groups of parishes have looked to see how we can plan and organise parish life into the future, including St Catherine of Sienna Lowton - The continuing parish of St Catherine of Sienna, All Saints and St Lewis', now served by one Parish Priest, Fr Johnson, now continues to serve the Catholic community of Lowton and that wider area.

When a church closes and the decision is taken to demolish, the belongings of the particular church are not lost, they continue to belong to the continuing amalgamated parish and great efforts are made to preserve them intact and firstly utilised in the continuing parish. If that is not possible, they remain the property of the continuing parish, but might then be securely stored for potential use in the future. They are certainly not sold on to any interested commercial firm, but remain in the custody and ownership of the parish.

Once the site of the church is sold, any monies raised are kept by the continuing parish, for the benefit of future generations; so fundraising in the past is not lost but re-invested in the church and parish that remains, for the future worship and community needs of the continuing parishes.

Particular items cannot be given to or taken by any individuals, as the Parish Priest must continue to care for those gifts given to the parish in the past, for the benefit of future generation. Sometimes such items may ultimately be utilised in other churches of the diocese, perhaps if they cannot afford to buy such devotional items from other suppliers and then the original donation continues to benefit members of the church and the prayers of new generations are added for those of the past for the donors and their families.

At this stage I don't know of any specific plans with the regard to the re-location of the Stations of the Cross, but as devotional items it will be important to maintain the whole set as one, so that they can be used for prayers in the future by people walking and praying that final journey with their Lord. I will speak to the Parish Priest about the securing; re-utilising or temporary storing of any of the items associated with the closed Church of St Catherine's and offer you my assurance that they will be carefully and respectfully treated throughout this difficult period of planning for a demolition and beyond."

The Leigh Journal has recently published an article regarding the Church ... [Click Here](#)

With regard to the ashes buried there, contact has been made with the families but where no record of next of kin is available these will be made safe on site and a Remembrance Garden created.

7. Diggle Green/United Utilities

A 'sweeter' smell has occurred on occasion so the new treatment regime is having a positive effect. There may be the occasional bad smell and the Environmental Agency will still like residents to report this if it happens.

Dan Matthewman, Senior Planning Enforcement Officer, from Warrington Council recently attended a meeting a Lane Head South Residents Group. He has been very proactive in investigating issues being faced by local residents. The minutes of LHSRG's meeting can be [viewed here](#)

8. Parkside

Mark Lewis, Co Chair of Parkside Action Group, reported that Langtree's application is expected November/December. The development will probably be in increments and will be a rail-freight site. It is hoped that there will be a Public Consultation event which will show the plans for the area, and the potential impact on surrounding areas.

9. Pensioners' Party

Yet again another well attended and successful afternoon held at Lowton Social Club. The dance floor was full and the room was buzzing. The buffet was delightful, though not enough was provided. Therefore for the next party, on **November 5th**, we shall ensure there's plenty to go round. This event is free and all tickets for the November event have already been snapped up.

Another party is planned for **December 10th** so if you know someone who would enjoy an afternoon of fun, bingo, raffle, dancing and singing then please contact us to reserve a ticket.

10. Last Night of the Proms

Dress rehearsal went well, the hall has been dressed with flags and all is ready. Date already reserved for next year's concert, 2015 3rd October.

Post Meeting Note: Event was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. A video compilation of the evening is being created and will follow soon.

11. Environmental Review

- The pond close to the footpath giving access to St Catherine's school and the southern part of Braithwaite estate has now had its low level wooden fencing repaired and its looking far cleaner and healthier (judging by the number of ducks using it).
- The 6ft fencing running alongside the footpath at the edges of properties, which was bowing out into the path, has also be repaired but not satisfactorily as it was done by contractors working for 'Bellway Homes' who built the adjoining houses. The workers discarded the old fencing into the ditch by the footpath. This was photographed and reported to Wigan Council immediately.
- Litter Pick to be arranged for a revisit to the Civic Hall area. This will be on a Saturday morning – date to be confirmed shortly.

Post Meeting Note: Date now confirmed as Saturday 1st November. Meet at 9.30am.

- Highfield Moss, off Newton Road. A local farmer has suggested a motorbike trap to be installed at the entrance to the public footpath. The Council has responded to this idea positively and Lancashire Wildlife Trust are also in favour of stopping bike riders from gaining access to the SSSI site.

12. Any Other Business

- Article in the Culcheth Life magazine regarding HS2 ...

culchethlife.com October 2014 www.culchethlife.com

Action group welcome HS2 adjournment

MEMBERS of Culcheth And District Rail Action Group (CADRAG) met with local MP Helen Jones recently to discuss the current position in relation to HS2.

CADRAG welcomed the recent Adjournment debate in Westminster where both Helen Jones MP (Warrington North) and David Mowatt MP (Warrington South) spoke against HS2's proposed Golborne link line, which will by-pass Warrington Bank Quay station, cross Hollins Green on a huge viaduct, and run through the Linear Park in Culcheth. It will also go through the Taylor Business Park, threatening 497 jobs.

The Consultation on the proposed route for HS2 closed at the end of January, and a response by the Government had been promised by the end of this year.

Since then, the new Chairman of HS2, David Higgins, has proposed bringing forward the building of the line to Crewe by six years and building a new "hub station" at Crewe. HS2 trains would continue north on the existing rail network, via a new connection at Crewe. This means the connection at Golborne will be no longer needed.

It is now likely that the Government statement expected in the Autumn will not announce a final decision on the route, although it may make an announcement in relation to the hub station at Crewe. It is thought that the final decision will not now be announced until summer 2015, after the next General Election in May 2015.

Frank Allen, Chair of CADRAG, said: "This means that we have to keep up the pressure on the Government to decide not to build the Golborne link, but instead to upgrade the existing West Coast Main Line, which will be cheaper for the taxpayer and will maintain Warrington Bank Quay's connections with the rest of the UK. He added: "HS2's proposed Golborne Link is unnecessary, and deciding not to build it would save over £1bn of taxpayers' money. Upgrading the West Coast Main Line will provide additional benefits for Warrington and the wider region, without the disastrous impact that the Golborne Link

would have on the local people and environment. We welcome Helen Jones' support in this fight to secure the best outcome for Warrington and for the region."

CADRAG is the Action Group formed to put forward the arguments for the people of Culcheth and District in seeking to protect the area from the adverse effects of the proposals for High Speed Rail lines.

Helen Jones said she would continue maintaining pressure in Westminster.

For more information on CADRAG or HS2 issues, contact Chair Frank Allen on 01925 765017 or email frank.r.allen@hotmail.co.uk



An artist's impression of HS2



- Signage for 20mph zones have started to appear on entrances to housing estates – though some residents are still reporting that cars are speeding. Any incidents please report to the police by ringing 101.
- Newton Train Station - £14 million has been allocated for the redevelopment which includes the purchase of land. Ray Bent is trying to gain more information on the proposed plans and will report back to LENDF when this is accomplished.

13. Next LENDF Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY 13th November 2014 @ 7.30pm (Lowton Social Club)

Should you find any omissions or discrepancies in these minutes please contact me on lendf99@gmail.com and let me know as soon as possible and the errors will be rectified.

Irene Thomson – Secretary, LENDF